

WIRE

FOR PEOPLE PASSIONATE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS
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AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



STAYING POWER
KEEPING UP THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS, IN 2012 AND BEYOND

INSIDE THIS WIRE



COVER STORY

Hope for the future: Graffiti on a wall lining Cairo's Mohamed Mahmoud street, near Tahrir Square. Since Egypt's uprising began in 2011, artists have used its walls as a canvas to express themselves. See more in our photo story on **PAGES 10-11**



THE YEAR IN HUMAN RIGHTS

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READ, SHARE, ACT – SEE OUR INSERT

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Cover image: © Amnesty International

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This issue of **WIRE** is about staying power. About taking a stand and keeping it up, however long it takes to change things. Our **Wrongs and Rights in 2012** feature (p. 4-7) includes some global highs and lows in the past year, and shows the vital role activists play in keeping the flame burning, even at the darkest times. Just like **Egypt's street artists** are projecting colourful visions of resistance and hope onto the grey walls of a street where many peaceful protesters were killed in 2011 (see p. 10-11). As **Angkhana Neelaphaijit's** story shows (p. 16-17), campaigning for human rights is a long-term game. And sometimes, we win.

'Time is running out: Open the closed books': Activists demand an end to discrimination against Roma children in schools. A pyramid of school books was symbolically padlocked with chains outside the Czech Republic's Ministry of Education in Prague, November 2012.

The Agenda

News about Amnesty International's work and campaigns

Reel Awareness Film Festival, Toronto

Amnesty International Canada's Reel Awareness Film Festival in Toronto featured 12 new human rights films in November, including the acclaimed *Children of the Jaguar* (see WIRE May/June 2012) and *It's a girl* about gender discrimination. The festival, run by volunteers, raises awareness about human rights – about 90 per cent of the audiences were non-Amnesty members. The festival also generated hundreds of petition signatures and postcard actions for our campaigns.

Find out more at: bit.ly/reel-fest

Human Rights Film Network

The Human Rights Film Network is a partnership of 33 independent film festivals around the world. Among the events it covers are the One World Film Festival in Prague, Czech Republic (4-13 March 2013), and the Movies That Matter Film Festival, in The Hague (21-27 March 2013). One of the main programmes at Movies that Matter, Amnesty International's film competition, A Matter of ACT, pays tribute to frontline human rights defenders. The festival is also a platform for events, actions and educational programmes.

Find out more at: bit.ly/movies-matter

Czech state still failing Roma in education

Amnesty and the European Roma Rights Centre have launched a joint report, *Five more years of injustice: Segregated education for Roma in the Czech Republic*. Activists at the launch in Prague built a 1.5m pyramid out of hundreds of books covered in chains to signify Roma discrimination

in the Czech education system (see photo on p.1). The report marks the fifth anniversary of the European Court of Human Rights' judgment which found that the Czech Republic had discriminated against Roma children by placing them in special schools teaching reduced curricula.

Read the report at: bit.ly/czech-roma-2012

and take action at: www.changeit.cz

Death penalty update

Completely removing all death penalty provisions in national legislation is now on Benin's parliamentary agenda. The country became the 75th member state to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in July 2012. It has committed to taking all measures to abolish the death penalty within its jurisdiction, and to stop all executions. Mongolia also ratified the ICCPR in 2012, and Madagascar signed the Protocol. Worldwide, 97 countries have abolished the death penalty for all crimes. Benin, Madagascar and Mongolia belong to 35 further states which are abolitionist in practice, setting the standard for others to follow.

“As a recent Nobel peace prize recipient, the EU is honour-bound to take decisive action to ensure refugees fleeing from Syria are protected. At present only a fraction of Syrian refugees have sought protection in Europe, while many times their number are being hosted by Syria's immediate neighbours”

Nicolas Beger, Director of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office



New-look LIVEWIRE blog

LIVEWIRE – Amnesty's global human rights blog by our writers worldwide – is now back online. Get the inside stories behind our research and campaigns, 'on the ground' reporting from the places we visit and the stories of the people we work for and with.

Visit livewire.amnesty.org

Anish Kapoor Gangnam style

Sculptor Anish Kapoor, together with other renowned artists and Amnesty activists, have made a Gangnam style video in support of Chinese artist Ai Weiwei. It has been screened on BBC television and at major arts institutions around the world.

See the video at: bit.ly/kapoor-gangnam



© Nicolai Khalezin

Syria in numbers

Continuing violence in Syria has cost more than **29,500** lives and left **1.2m** people displaced within the country.

As of December 2012 more than **500,000** refugees have been registered or are awaiting registration in neighbouring countries.

According to UNHCR, the EU received **16,500** asylum applications from Syrians between January 2011 and August 2012.

Depicting the death penalty

London-based theatre company Belarus Free Theatre will stage new performances of its death penalty play "Trash Cuisine" in 2013. The play graphically and sometimes grotesquely depicts the inherent cruelty of the practice. To prepare for the play, the company travelled to Ghana, Malaysia and Thailand to explore common death penalty themes and give workshops on how theatre can contribute to abolition. The trip was supported by Amnesty Switzerland's Relief Programme, which provides financial assistance to individuals and organizations promoting and protecting human rights. Follow the company on Facebook for updates: bit.ly/belarus-theatre

Up front

Kuwait at the crossroads

By Researcher
DREWERY DYKE



© Antonio Tiso | Molo7

Drewery Dyke (centre) in Kuwait, discussing a trial of human rights activists with their lawyers.

"My government will resolve the status of the Bidun people within five years," pledged Kuwait's Prime Minister, Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah, over sweet tea in his elegant waterside palace during our visit in October 2012.

We were discussing the stateless Bidun, who are stuck without citizenship and discriminated against in

accessing basic services in one of the world's richest nations (see WIRE September/October 2012).

But ending discrimination against the Bidun seemed to be one of the easier challenges facing the Kuwaiti authorities.

Three days earlier, former parliamentarian Musallam al-Barrak had peacefully criticized Kuwait's ruler, the Amir, at a large demonstration. The protest ended with a former politician's son being beaten and arrested. Hours after our meeting with the Prime Minister, we observed another demonstration, this time against the arrest of two former MPs.

As we greeted al-Barrak in the crowd, it was compelling to be surrounded by hundreds of Kuwaiti men and women, noisily calling for transparency and freedom of expression. The crowd had a clear focus and an air of jubilation. Though I feared that, for some, a thirst for power seemed to outweigh the thirst for justice.

As the protests grew during October, so did the force deployed to crush them. Many were arrested, including al-Barrak. The government's response flew in the face of the Prime Minister's guarantees for freedom of peaceful assembly given to us less than a fortnight before.

I recalled how a representative from Kuwait's growing civil society had slammed empty tear gas canisters, rubber bullets and stun grenade casings onto a table before me, breathlessly describing how they had been fired into a peaceful crowd by security forces. His nervousness came in stark comparison to the relaxed opulence of the government palace where we had been greeted as guests earlier the same day.

Amnesty International is part of a coalition including Kuwait's burgeoning human rights bodies calling for everyone in the country to have freedom of assembly and expression. We urge the security forces not to use unlawful force when policing demonstrations. Respecting and fulfilling human rights must be at the heart of the authorities' efforts to address Kuwait's challenges as we enter 2013.

LETTERS

Want your views and comments to appear in The Agenda? Write to us at yourwire@amnesty.org

WRONGS AND RIGHTS IN 2012

2012 saw the first ever International Criminal Court conviction, as Thomas Lubanga was sentenced to 14 years for war crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This historic decision – 18 years after Amnesty started campaigning for the ICC to be established – only covered some of the alleged crimes of Lubanga's armed group, however, and came in a year when people in the DRC were caught in yet more violence and insecurity.

The verdict shows we do make a difference in the world, but we must never take our eye off the ball. We must always keep watch, highlight and protest against human rights abuses, and demand justice. Staying power is the key: As 2013 begins, new global challenges lie ahead. **We will meet them.**

© REUTERS/Denis Sinyakov



January 2012: The Russian radical feminist group 'Pussy Riot' sing a song in Moscow's Red Square, protesting against Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's policies. Three Pussy Riot members were jailed in August for another protest performance. One woman was released in October; the other two remain in prison.

JANUARY

2012 starts on a high as activists send a record **1,378,962** Write for Rights appeals across **78** countries. *"I said I would write 20 letters, but I just couldn't stop,"* said Sue Stroud from Canada, who wrote **41** letters.

As **Mongolia** becomes the **74th** country to scrap the death penalty, President Elbegdorj Tsakhia thanks Amnesty for our support in achieving this vital step.

Victims of **Haiti's** former leader Jean-Claude Duvalier are dealt another blow as the government **drops the criminal case** against the former "president-for-life", accused of torture, disappearances and extrajudicial executions between **1971** and **1986**.

In **Senegal**, **three people** are killed and dozens injured as security forces clamp down on **protests** against a proposed third term for President Abdoulaye Wade.

FEBRUARY

The conflict in **Syria** worsens as armed forces begin a **large-scale military assault** on the city of Homs.

In the **USA**, Johnnie Kamahi Warren, 43, becomes the **500th fatal victim of taser use**, after a police officer in Dothan, Alabama uses a taser on him at least twice.

At least **100 internally displaced people** die from cold or illness in refugee camps in Afghanistan's capital, **Kabul**, alone.

Activists bombard the authorities with **thousands of letters** in our FaxJams for **Norma Cruz** and **Colombia's Peace Community of San José de Apartadó**. *"We don't know each other and are from a far away place, but one thing this shows is that solidarity and respect for life goes beyond distances and protocols,"* the Peace Community said in a message to activists.



MARCH

One Guatemalan man is sentenced to **6,060 years in prison** for taking part in a **massacre** in the village of Dos Erres that left more than **250 people dead** in July 1982.

A military coup in **Bamako**, the capital of Mali, plunges the country into a period of **danger and insecurity**.

APRIL

International judges in **The Hague** find former Liberian president **Charles Taylor** guilty of aiding and abetting war crimes during the **Sierra Leone** civil war. *"Today's verdict sends an important message to high-ranking state officials; no matter who you are or what position you hold, you will be brought to justice for crimes,"* said Brima Abdulai Sheriff, Director of Amnesty International Sierra Leone.

In **Iran**, Executive Chairperson of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders, **Narges Mohammadi**, begins a **six-year prison sentence** in Tehran's Evin Prison as a **prisoner of conscience**.

Our **FaxJam** for **Johan Teterissa** in **Indonesia** brings the total of faxes sent to over **15,000**.

Relatives of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons celebrate in May 2012 as 2,000 prisoners suspend their month-long hunger strike after Israel agrees to improve prison conditions, including by resuming family visits.



© MAHMUD HAMS/AFP/GettyImages

Protesters wear white dresses and cover their eyes to mourn the death of veteran Chinese dissident Li Wangyang. He was found dead in mysterious circumstances in a hospital ward in Shaoyang city, Hunan province, in June.



Plainclothes policemen detain an opposition supporter during an anti-government protest in central Baku, Azerbaijan, ahead of the Eurovision Song Contest staged in the city in May.

© IRFS

MAY

Police in **Azerbaijan's capital, Baku**, use violence to break up two **peaceful protests** called by opposition groups ahead of the **Eurovision Song Contest**.

In Canada, police round up hundreds of peaceful protesters across **Quebec** province after the controversial new **Law 78** is passed. It imposes a series of restrictions on public demonstrations, including requiring protest organizers to apply in advance before convening groups of more than 50 people. On **23 May alone**, police **arrested close to 700 protesters** in several cities.

Two men set themselves on fire in **Lhasa, Tibet**, to protest Chinese rule, just one of many self-immolations by Tibetans over the year.

© AP Photo/Vincent Yu



JUNE

Egypt's 31-year-old state of emergency expires. The next day, ex-president **Hosni Mubarak** and his Interior Minister **Habib El-Adly** are sentenced to **life imprisonment** for their complicity in the killing of protesters during the "25 January revolution" in 2011.

Nigeria's Rivers State authorities start **demolishing** Abonnema Wharf in **Port Harcourt**, forcing up to **20,000 people** out of their homes.

JULY

Former Argentinian Presidents Jorge Rafael Videla and Reynaldo Bignone are **sentenced** to 50 and 15 years respectively for **kidnapping**, hiding and renaming the **children** of people who were detained and disappeared during the country's military regime between 1976 and 1983.

The **Russian Federation and China veto** a UN Security Council Resolution proposing diplomatic and economic **sanctions** on the Syrian authorities.

The Control Arms Coalition hands a **petition signed by over 600,000 activists** to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, calling for a strong **Arms Trade Treaty**. A vote on the final treaty text is later **scuppered** as **USA, Russia and China stall**.

Activists tweet the **London Olympic Committee**, asking it to **stop defending** its key sponsor, **Dow Chemical**. Dow now owns the Union Carbide factory in **Bhopal**, India, where a 1984 gas leak devastated tens of thousands of people's lives.

© JERRY LAMPEN/AFP/GettyImages



"An historic moment for international justice": The International Criminal Court hands down its first-ever sentence. Thomas Lubanga Dyilo, leader of a Congolese armed group, is given 14 years for recruiting and using child soldiers in armed conflict.



Women dance in Sarayaku village, Ecuador, 12 August 2012, celebrating a ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights granting the Sarayaku Indigenous community in the Ecuadorian Amazon the right to stay on their ancestral land, and compensation for damage caused by oil exploration.

AUGUST

UN Special Envoy to Syria, **Kofi Annan**, decides to **step down**, citing a deadlock in the UN Security Council as a factor behind his decision.

More than **7,500 foreign nationals** – many of Asian, African and North African origin – are **arrested** in raids in **Athens**, Greece. Many are later **released** because they are found to be legal residents.

South African police open fire on protesting miners at the Marikana Mine Complex in the north east, **killing 34 people**.

Activists worldwide protest wearing colourful balaclavas as a court in Moscow, **Russia**, **jails** three members of punk band **Pussy Riot** for two years.

© Jorn van Eck/Amnesty International



SEPTEMBER

Relatives of inmates being held – mostly without charges – in a desert prison in Qassem province, **Saudi Arabia**, hold a rare **protest**.

Myanmar releases around **90 political prisoners** in an amnesty.

Viet Nam: Three bloggers, Nguyen Van Hai, known as Dieu Cay ("the peasant's pipe"), **Ta Phong Tan**, and **Phan Thanh Hai** are **sentenced** to 12, 10 and four years in prison respectively for "conducting propaganda" against the state.

Japan executes two people, including the first woman in more than 15 years. It did not carry out any executions in 2011.

Mobs in **Bangladesh burn** more than **20 Buddhist temples** and many homes of Buddhist families in the south after an allegedly derogatory picture of the Qur'an is posted on Facebook.

Over 300,000 people signed our Clean Up the Niger Delta campaign, delivered to Shell headquarters in The Hague, Netherlands, on 4 July 2012. "The whole world is now hearing our cry and coming to our aid," said Chief Hyacinth Lema, Chairman of the Council of Chiefs and Elders in Bodo, Nigeria.

OCTOBER

In Turkey, two prison guards and a prison director are given life sentences for torturing political activist Engin Çeber to death in prison in October 2008. The verdict marks an historic victory against torture in detention in the country.

A court in Moscow, Russia, releases Pussy Riot member Ekaterina Samutsevich after suspending her sentence. It upholds the jail sentences against her band mates, Maria Alekhina and Nadezhda Tolokonnikova.

Journalists Sofiene Chourabi and Mehdi Jlassi are fined in Tunisia for being “drunk in public” and “harming public morals”. The conviction raises concerns they have been punished for criticizing the government. Along with a female friend, they had been arrested on 5 August for drinking alcohol on a beach while camping.

Tear gas and stun grenades are used to disperse thousands of people in Kuwait City, Kuwait, protesting against the detention of opposition leader and former MP, Musallam al-Barrack.

In November, thousands of people worldwide took part in our 16 Days of Action to stop violence against women in conflicts. Former ‘comfort woman’ Kim Bok-dong from South Korea, who was forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese army during World War II, told her story on LIVEWIRE, Amnesty’s global human rights blog, at bit.ly/be-strong



© Amnesty International

NOVEMBER

More than 160 people are killed in Gaza and six in Israel, including many civilians, during Israel’s eight-day “Operation Pillar of Defense”. It began with the targeted killing in Gaza of Ahmad al-Ja’abari, the head of Hamas’ military wing, with the stated aim of deterring Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel.



Syria’s conflict continued to rage throughout 2012. Here, a woman is evacuated after being wounded in shelling by regime forces in Aleppo, 13 October 2012.

© FABIO BUCCIARELLI/AFP/GettyImages

Three high-ranking members of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) are acquitted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) after a retrial on war crimes charges. “Is anybody ever going to be brought to justice? These are the questions that the victims and their families will continue to ask,” said John Dalhuisen, Director of Amnesty International’s Europe and Central Asia programme.

A life sentence handed out to a Qatari poet is branded by Amnesty as an outrageous betrayal of free speech. Mohammed al-Ajami, also known as Mohammed Ibn al-Dheeb, was tried on charges of incitement “to overthrow the ruling system”, and “insulting the Amir”.

Tens of thousands of civilians flee as the armed opposition group M23 march on the city of Goma in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. M23 is led by Bosco Ntaganda, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court.

DECEMBER

As WIRE goes to print, hundreds of thousands of activists worldwide are taking part in the world’s largest human rights event – Write for Rights 2012. They are writing letters, sending text messages, creating street art, staging light projections and concerts to protect individuals and communities at risk of human rights abuses. Will we beat last year’s record of 1.3 million actions? Read the next issue of WIRE to find out.

This list is not exhaustive, but gives a snapshot of human rights trends and events around the world.

To see more, visit bit.ly/year-in-human-rights



Why has Musa'ab Omar Al Madhwani (left) been stuck in limbo at Guantánamo for a decade?

ONE MAN IN GUANTÁNAMO 10 YEARS OF HUMAN WRONGS

Musa'ab Omar Al Madhwani was arrested in Karachi by the Pakistani security forces on 11 September 2002.

He said they tied him up, blindfolded him, beat him with a rifle and threatened to kill him.

Around five days later he was handed over to US forces and flown to Afghanistan, where he was held for about a month in a secret facility run by US forces in or near Kabul.

He says he was tortured and ill-treated in other ways, including though sleep deprivation, being forced into stress positions and doused with cold water.

After another five days of illegal detention in the US air base at Bagram – and allegedly more abuse – Musa'ab Al Madhwani was finally sent to Guantánamo in late October 2002.

Now 32 years old, the Yemeni national has been held at the US detention centre in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, for almost a third of his life.

LEGAL LIMBO

It would be another two years before he had access to a lawyer. After nearly six years, the US Supreme Court ruled that he and others held at Guantánamo had the right to challenge the lawfulness of their detention in court. Musa'ab Al Madhwani's habeas corpus petition was finally considered in 2010.

Today, more than 10 years after he was taken into custody, he still hasn't been charged with any crime

by the USA. But the US authorities continue to claim the right to hold him indefinitely by invoking its flawed theory of "global war" with al-Qa'ida and associated groups.

They allege that in 2001 Musa'ab Al Madhwani travelled to Afghanistan to receive firearms training at an al-Qa'ida camp, where he allegedly associated with al-Qa'ida members.

The US District Court judge who heard Musa'ab Al Madhwani's legal challenge against his detention in 2010 gave the government the benefit of the doubt. He concluded that Musa'ab Al Madhwani was "at best, a low-level al-Qa'ida figure" who apparently "never finished his weapons training", "never fired a weapon in battle", and never "planned, participated in, or even knew of any terrorist plots". The US Court of Appeals upheld this ruling in May 2011.

The same District Court judge found Musa'ab Al Madhwani's allegations of being abused in US custody in Afghanistan to be "credible". The fact that the authorities have still not investigated these allegations violates the USA's obligations under international law.

TIP OF THE ICEBERG

More than 150 men are still held at Guantánamo. Many have claimed they were tortured or otherwise ill-treated in US custody. The US administration has systematically blocked attempts by former detainees to seek justice for such violations.



© Scott Langley

Only one of the 779 detainees held at the base since January 2002 has been transferred to mainland USA for prosecution in an ordinary federal court. Others have faced prosecutions that don't meet international fair trial standards. The Obama administration now intends to seek the death penalty for six detainees facing these prosecutions. Imposing the death penalty after such trials is in clear violation of international law.

Some detainees have remained at the base despite being "cleared for transfer" from Guantánamo by the US government. For some, it is because they are Yemeni. In 2010, the US administration stopped repatriating Yemeni detainees from Guantánamo on national security grounds.

Others can't be sent back to their home countries because they would face a risk of further abuses there. And because the US authorities refuse to allow any released detainees into mainland USA, they are forced to stay at Guantánamo until a solution involving another country is found. That can take years.

The cruelty of indefinite detention was highlighted again in September 2012, when another Yemeni national, Adnan Farhan Abdul Latif, became the ninth inmate known to have died at Guantánamo. He had been held without charge or trial for more than a decade.

According to the US military authorities, six of the people who died before him had committed suicide, and two died from natural causes.



GUANTÁNAMO: 10 FACTS

It is **11 years** since the first detainees arrived at the US detention centre in Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

779 people have been held there since, most without charge or criminal trial.

More than **150 men** are still held in Guantánamo.

At least **12 detainees** were aged under **18** when they were taken into custody.

According to the Obama administration in 2010, **48** detainees will neither be released nor tried, but held at Guantánamo indefinitely.

One Guantánamo detainee has been transferred to the US mainland for trial in US federal court

Seven detainees have been convicted by military commission, **five** after pleading guilty under pre-trial agreements.

Six detainees are currently facing possible **death sentences** after unfair military commission trials.

Nine Guantánamo detainees have **died** in US custody.

About **600** detainees have been transferred from the detention centre to **other countries** since 2002.

All numbers correct as of December 2012

Activists holding a banner in front of the White House, Washington DC, USA, 11 January 2012.

THE FUTURE OF GUANTÁNAMO

Musa'ab Al Madhwani's story illustrates the injustice caused by the USA's "global war" theory, and its destructive impact on human rights principles and protection.

President Obama committed his first administration to closing the Guantánamo facility by 22 January 2010. He described the prison as "a misguided experiment", adding that "by any measure, the costs of keeping it open far exceed the complications involved in closing it". Three years later, it's still open.

Eleven years after the first detainees arrived at Guantánamo on 11 January 2002, it's time for the US authorities to bring all the people still detained there to a fair trial in independent civilian courts. If not, they must release them.

Follow #Guantanamo @amnestyonline on Twitter

A street in Cairo has become an open-air graffiti gallery, and a memorial to those who have died during Egypt's uprising.

During Hosni Mubarak's 30 years in power, the walls lining Cairo's streets stood in stark silence. Today, some have come alive with colour, serving as a powerful canvas for people to express themselves.

Mohamed Mahmoud street leads from the Interior Ministry into Tahrir Square – the main focus point for Cairo's protesters. Fifty-one people were killed there during six days of clashes with Egyptian riot police in November 2011. Since then, the street became the centre of Egypt's graffiti world.

The art serves as a memorial to those who were killed here. It also signposts the problems Egypt still faces, and shows how little has changed in the two years since the uprising began. Only one member of the security forces is on trial for the violence in Mohamed Mahmoud street. The families of those killed are still waiting for justice.



THESE WALLS CAN SPEAK



Remembering the victims of the violence during Egypt's uprising is another theme of the graffiti.



Above: "Glory to the martyrs" announces this graffiti. "Wipe it and I'll draw it again" is the defiant message on the left can. "Either we get justice for them or we die like them" says the other.

Below: A memorial to people who have died in Egypt's uprising: "Praying that you are happy where you are".



"I've had two different reactions from people so far: either they are afraid of you – they see a girl on a ladder painting something on a wall and they just don't get it – or they become aggressive and they start making comments such as: how come a woman is on the street doing that? What kind of art is this?"

Laila Majid, Cairo graffiti artist



Left: "We will not forget": Soldiers were filmed beating a woman protester on Cairo's streets in December 2011, pulling her clothes up and exposing her underwear. This sparked widespread anger and became a symbol of the army's brutality.



Above: The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) used violence to suppress the protests on Mohamed Mahmoud street in November 2011, which left around 50 people dead.

Left: A victim of the uprising.

Below: Life goes on: an expression of hope.



"I sat on that street for 55 days. This street has a story to tell."

Ammaar Mustapha Ali, Cairo graffiti artist

All images © Amnesty International

ACT NOW

Sign and send the postcard to Egypt's president in our middle insert.

See more of Cairo's street art at: bit.ly/cairo-graffiti

Read *Agents of repression: Egypt's police and the case for reform* here: bit.ly/egypt-police-repression

Women fighting sexual harassment is a theme running through the graffiti.

MY BODY, MY RIGHTS

© Johy Turek



Activists have a once in a generation opportunity in 2013-14 to influence the international agenda on sexual and reproductive rights. **SABRINA FRYDMAN**, a young lawyer from Argentina, explains why she is campaigning to make young people's voices heard.

Sexual and reproductive rights are about having a choice and having control over your own body. Many young people don't feel they actually own their decisions. They go to school and are told what to do, and then they go home and are told what to do.

Young people in Argentina are not being educated about their sexual and reproductive rights. We do have a very good law on sexual education and responsible procreation, which includes education at different levels at school. But young people still aren't receiving that information.

This is clearly illustrated by our high levels of teenage abortion. Young people simply lack the information necessary to prevent unwanted pregnancies – how to get hold of and use contraceptives, or even why they need to protect themselves.

Abortion in Argentina is illegal, and is only allowed in certain strict circumstances – in cases of rape, or if a woman's life and health is at risk. Our Supreme Court passed a decision recently saying very clearly that abortion should be available in these cases. But although the Supreme Court asked the country's provinces to regulate access to abortion in these cases, with some exceptions, unfortunately this hasn't happened yet either.

Being both young and poor is a bad combination in terms of sexual and reproductive rights in my country. Women who need an abortion can pay for one at a private clinic. But it's very difficult to get these services in public hospitals. Many doctors refuse to perform legal abortions. Women and girls who can't afford to pay are forced to have abortions in very unhealthy conditions. That's why our maternal mortality numbers are high.

CONTRACEPTION IF I WANT
RIGHT TO A SEXUAL LIFE
MY BODY MY RIGHT
TO INFORMATION
NO FORCED PREGNANCY
GENDER EQUALITY
NO COERCION
QUALITY HEALTH CARE
LISTEN TO MY VOICE
RESPECT IDENTITY
RIGHT TO DECIDE
CHOICE
SEXUAL RIGHTS JUSTICE
STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
END FORCED MARRIAGE
HUMAN RIGHTS
SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION
END DISCRIMINATION

Change comes when young people realise that they can make their own decisions. If they get the right information, and opportunities to discuss their situation and ask questions, they start to see that their opinions have value. That they can make serious decisions about their own bodies – to have children or not, or how to protect themselves.

I am working with Amnesty to organize a network of youth organizations that can make their voices heard together. Politicians need to hear young people's demands in order to turn them into reality. I also want to make sure the law is implemented properly. Because you can't expect people to demand rights that they don't know they have.

I also want abortion to be decriminalized in all cases. Nobody wants to have an abortion, so the main aim is to prevent unwanted pregnancy. But when it happens, criminalizing abortion doesn't solve anything. The state has an important responsibility in this respect.

And we all have a responsibility to listen to young people when we make decisions that affect them. This is a good time to make sure young people's voices are heard globally on their sexual and reproductive rights.

Sabrina represented Amnesty at the Global Youth Forum in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2012, as part of the 20 year review of the UN International Conference on Population and Development. In 1994, 179 governments adopted its Programme of Action by consensus. The Review will identify progress, challenges and steps forward on, among other things, standards on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Visit icpdyouth.org

ACT NOW

Spread the love – tear out and share the card in our middle insert with a friend.

Sign our petition and find out more at amnesty.org/mybodymyrights

Tweet your views #mybodymyrights

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A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Amnesty's Human Rights Friendly Schools project has inspired more than 40,000 young people globally to get involved. One of them, **AYOUB SOUDI** from Ibn Youssef High School in Marrakesh, Morocco, told us how this project has changed local attitudes.

© Amnesty International



The Human Rights Friendly Schools project is a torch, and it is everyone's responsibility to keep it lit. It is a great opportunity for young people to improve their learning and their relationships, and to take a more active part in school life. I appeal to all students to participate in this project, and build the schools we all dream of: schools in which human rights are a reality.

I got to know the Human Rights Friendly Schools project thanks to my teacher, who co-ordinated the Human Rights Club in my school. I was fascinated by the project, because it would allow me to learn more about human rights. My dream was to see respect for human rights all across my school, and to become an example of this myself.

I implemented the project action plan alongside my friends, teachers, school staff, and Amnesty Morocco. Through workshops and seminars linked to four key project areas, we learned about human rights using activities like theatre, drawing, music and cinema. We also visited human rights NGOs and produced magazines about human rights.

The project empowered me. I became a member of the project co-ordinating committee, and started organizing and running events. I worked closely with students and school staff, and participated in training sessions run by Amnesty Morocco. Learning about the culture of human rights changed my personality, and my vision of my future.

I became more aware of my rights and responsibilities towards my surroundings, and more active and present in my school. This reinforced other people's confidence in me, and I received a lot of support from my family. I started discussing and evaluating my own behaviour and that of my friends and family. The project helped me become a resource for my friends and students, and to be an example for others.

Student participation in school life also improved – we are now represented on decision-making committees such as the Board of Management. Our voices are heard better now.

Overall, I feel that my school environment and student behaviour have changed. Students are more aware of their rights and responsibilities, and sensitive to negative behaviour and violations of their own rights.

Ayoub (above, second left) and his friends taking action against the death penalty through their Human Rights Club at school.

Top left: Ayoub in front of his school.

Bottom left: Students and teachers from Lycée Ibn Youssef school in Marrakesh, Morocco, taking part in the Human Rights Friendly Schools project, 2010.

My vision of human rights used to be too narrow, and now it is much broader. I've realized that human rights are universal. My friends feel the same way – some have started taking part in Amnesty's Write for Rights, and others are reviewing their position on the death penalty.

The project also opened my eyes to new study options. I'm now planning to study law so I can continue my academic career in human rights. I've become a member of Amnesty Morocco, and intend to continue to fight against human rights violations alongside them.

Find out more and download *Becoming a Human Rights Friendly School: A guide for schools around the world* at bit.ly/hr-friendly-schools

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

Nigeria's security forces are killing civilians in the name of fighting terrorism, says Researcher LUCY FREEMAN.

I visited Abuja, Nigeria, with an Amnesty International delegation, including the Secretary General, on 1 November 2012. We were there to launch our report on the grave human rights abuses by the Islamist armed group known as Boko Haram, and the human rights violations carried out by the authorities in response.

Our report, *Nigeria: Trapped in the cycle of violence*, is based on two years of research. It documents enforced disappearances, torture and extrajudicial executions by Nigeria's security forces, mainly in Maiduguri, Borno state, in northern Nigeria. It highlights failures by the government to adequately prevent or investigate the attacks by Boko Haram or to bring perpetrators to justice.

During my research many witnesses and victims' relatives told me heartbreaking stories. One man, still clutching a photo of his brother, told me how his brother had been arrested about two weeks earlier. No one had heard of him since. The man had searched in all the police stations and army units. He said a policeman had told him off the record that his brother had been killed. He said he refused to believe this until he saw the body for himself.

I interviewed witnesses who described seeing security forces shooting at close range people who were clearly no threat – unarmed, lying down, or with their hands over their heads. Families talked of their anguish at their relatives being arrested and detained without charge or trial, or access to their family or a lawyer, some for over a year. Lawyers told me how the police and military ignored court orders for detainees' release.

The Nigerian government's response to the report was mixed. When I met with Nigeria's Attorney General in Abuja, he said all alleged human rights violations by security forces would be investigated. He assured me that Nigeria was committed to making sure its security forces operate within the rule of law and with respect for human rights.

Reactions from the Chief of Army staff and Inspector General of Police, however, were disappointing. Instead



Top: At least 14 houses were burned down in Maiduguri on 14 July 2012, reportedly by members of the Joint Task Force (JTF), after a girl was shot by a suspected Boko Haram member.

Above: Bodies dumped by the roadside in Maiduguri, Borno state, Nigeria, August 2012. It is unclear who killed the men. A local resident said: "When I went inside there were no bodies there, when I came out there was a JTF vehicle pulling away and two dead bodies lying by the side of the road."

of addressing the serious issues we had raised, they made factually incorrect statements questioning Amnesty's methodology and the impartiality of the report.

In a shocking turn of events, on the very day we launched the report, security forces reportedly shot dozens of men and boys from Maiduguri. At least 30 bodies were reportedly deposited at Maiduguri hospital morgue with gunshot wounds. The killings underline the importance of our call for a thorough investigation into all such reports.

Nigeria is required to ensure proper investigations into all human rights abuses and that all victims have access to effective remedies. Only by clarifying the truth about events, bringing those responsible to justice and ensuring that victims obtain full reparation can confidence in the justice system be restored and human rights guaranteed.

Read our new report at bit.ly/nigeria-violence



In 2010, 25 year-old farmer Gulzar Jan was summoned by his village committee to meet with army officers at a local military base in Pakistan's Swat valley. Accused of supporting the Taliban when they controlled the region until it was recaptured by the army three years ago, Jan went willingly to clear his name. Instead, he disappeared without a trace.

"We never saw him alive again," his brother, Farooq, told us. Three years later Farooq received a phone call from a village elder telling him to collect Gulzar Jan's dead body from the local police station.

Sadly, Gulzar Jan's case is all too common in the Tribal Areas. Scores of

WILL THE ‘HANDS OF JUSTICE’ REACH PAKISTAN’S TRIBAL AREAS?

© AP Photo/Mohammed Sajjad

Pakistan’s Tribal Areas remain in crisis as abuses by the army and insurgents continue with impunity. Researcher MUSTAFA QADRI, asks if the sweeping legal powers given to the military risk many more years of lawlessness.

men have been returned dead to their families after spending days, months or years in army custody. Others have been recovered dumped in remote parts of northwest Pakistan. In none of these cases has there been an adequate investigation into their deaths, compensation for the relatives, or prosecution of suspects.

Thousands of men and boys have been arbitrarily detained by the Pakistan Armed Forces in counter-insurgency sweeps, often on little or no evidence of involvement with the Taliban, or committing any crimes. Some of those detained have themselves been persecuted by the Taliban.

Pakistani paramilitary troops take position on a hilltop post in the south Waziristan tribal region along the Afghan border, July 2010.

The Taliban also continue to commit abuses, killing scores of civilians accused of “spying”, launching suicide attacks in mosques, schools and other public places, and killing captured soldiers. Still, the authorities have done little to prosecute them.

Several robust human rights protections are enshrined in Pakistan’s Constitution, but the people of the Tribal Areas are excluded from these. Pakistan’s high courts and parliament have no powers over the region.

Instead of addressing these problems, the Pakistan government has passed new security laws, called the Actions (in Aid of Civil Powers) Regulations 2011 (AACPR). These laws, which cover the Tribal Areas, give sweeping powers to the Pakistan Armed Forces, enabling them to violate several human rights standards with impunity – from the right to life and protections against arbitrary detention, to the ban on torture and the right to fair trial. Pakistan’s courts have made some attempts to enforce the rights of those in detention with little success.

With Pakistan facing a daunting security and humanitarian challenge in the Tribal Areas, it needs to protect the

rights of the people in those areas now more than ever. Pakistan’s authorities must repeal the AACPR and extend the power of the courts and parliament to the area, bringing perpetrators to justice in fair trials.

So far, the authorities have proved unwilling. “The hands of cruelty extend to the Tribal Areas,” laments lawyer and human rights activist Ghulam Nabi, “but the hands of justice still cannot reach that far.”

All names have been changed to protect the identity of the people who spoke to us.

ACT NOW

Sign and send the postcard in the insert.

A QUEST FOR TRUTH AND JUSTICE

Angkhana Neelaphaijit was a retired nurse and mother of five children when her husband, prominent human rights lawyer Somchai Neelaphaijit, was abducted by police on 12 March 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then, Khun Angkhana has braved death threats to search for answers, in her husband's case and for others. Somchai Neelaphaijit's kidnappers were prosecuted in 2006. One police officer was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for coercion, while four others were acquitted.

Her struggle eventually led to Thailand signing the UN Convention against Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances in 2011. And in November 2012, the first compensation payments were paid to families of the disappeared in Thailand.

How did you become an activist?

One year after Khun Somchai's disappearance, I began to ask the children what we should do. We had the choice of doing nothing. Or we could stand up to demand justice. We could lose family and friends who may not be able to put up with the threats and intimidation. In the end, the family agreed that we should not allow Dad to be disappeared without us doing anything.

What role did you play in getting Thailand to sign the UN Convention on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances?

I lobbied the UN, the European Union, international NGOs, the Thai Parliament, the government, the Thai people and the media. I tried to make them understand what a cruel impact enforced disappearances have on victims and their families. I presented myself and my family as a case study. I tried to show Thai society that enforced disappearances are a crime against humanity and not just a private matter, as we had previously believed. What has happened to me and my family has happened to all victims of enforced disappearance. When the Thai people understand this, they will pressure the government to amend the legislation and finally ratify the Convention.

Why are enforced disappearances so common in Thailand?

Two government policies directly contributed to increasing enforced disappearances in Thailand: the highly militarized counter-insurgency approach adopted in southern Thailand by various governments, and the war on narcotic drugs that began in 2003. I think decades of impunity in Thailand have created a context in which administrative and security officials know that their illegal actions are condoned by the state and that the likelihood of legal action against them is extremely low. The only way to end enforced disappearances in Thailand is to end impunity.

How has your work with the Justice for Peace Foundation made a difference?

Since the state is largely denying us judicial remedies, the right to truth and the right to reparations for enforced disappearances, we put pressure on the Thai government to compensate victims of disappearance in southern Thailand. On 12 November 2012, the government agreed to compensate 30 families of the disappeared in southern Thailand, including my own. This is the first time that victims of enforced disappearance in Thailand have had access to reparations. We will now encourage the government to compensate victims of disappearances in other parts of the country.

What has been your biggest challenge in seeking justice for your husband's disappearance?

As a woman, a mother and a human rights defender, it is very difficult for me to find truth and justice while my family always faces death threats, but we need to carry on fighting for justice. The police suspected of abducting my husband are still working and have been promoted to higher positions. The Department of Special Investigation that has responsibility for my husband's case does not seem to want to make the truth known. I feel that the Ministry of Justice and other parts of the government are not taking his case seriously. So, I need to be more tolerant and patient because the road to justice is still so long and dangerous. But the support of my colleagues and human rights organizations all over the world make me strong, and I will not give up fighting for justice.

Angkhana Neelaphaijit is head of the Justice for Peace Foundation, which works to end enforced disappearances throughout Thailand.
Visit justiceforpeace.org

'THE WORLD NEEDS TO KNOW'

Vulnerable people locked in metal containers. Children guarded by armed militias. Women given electric shocks. This is the reality for some foreigners in post-Gaddafi Libya. By DIANA ELTAHAWY, Libya Researcher.



In two cells in Tweissha detention centre, I found a group of Nigerian women. Some were covered in bruises from head to toe. They had been beaten for hours with hoses and other kinds of equipment. Even electric shocks had been meted out with stun gun devices.

"First I was flogged inside the cell," a 28-year-old Nigerian woman told me. "They used hoses and metal wires. Then I was taken to another room with the other women, and beaten again by men in civilian clothes. They gave me electric shocks on several parts of my body."

I visited Tweissha in September 2012. It was Amnesty's third trip to Libya last year to investigate the problems faced by foreign nationals since al-Gaddafi's government fell. I went to nine detention centres where a total of 2,700 migrants and asylum-seekers were being held.

Everywhere I went, I found foreigners – in some cases children and women – with no protection from being exploited, beaten and detained in harsh conditions. Before al-Gaddafi fell, many foreigners lived in constant fear of being arrested and abused in other ways. Today, with Libya in a state of lawlessness as armed militias control large areas of the country, the situation for foreigners is arguably worse.

A high-level official in Benghazi told me that detaining migrants had become "a business for some". Detainees held by militias were being made to do manual work such as off-loading and cleaning equipment. Others were placed in work schemes where they were poorly paid, if at all.

Racism against Sub-Saharan Africans in Libya flared up because of exaggerated reports of al-Gaddafi's regime using "African mercenaries" to suppress the 2011 uprising. These foreigners are being blamed for crime, disease and other ills, with no voice to challenge these perceptions, and no justice system to turn to for redress. Prison guards and administrators told me it was their "national duty" to round up and detain undocumented migrants.

Conditions in the nine detention centres varied, but none of them met international standards. Cells were overcrowded and dirty. Some detainees had no chance of breathing fresh air. Some makeshift detention centres were no more than metal containers or hangars, where detainees slept on mattresses or blankets laid out on the floor. These people had committed no crime other than entering the country "irregularly". Some were fleeing war or persecution at home.

Turning a blind eye to these abuses, the European Union has resumed a dialogue with Libya

on issues related to migration. Libyan government officials told me that addressing the situation of asylum-seekers and migrants was not a priority, given the challenges they faced in re-establishing the rule of law in Libya. In the meantime, thousands of people continue to suffer violence and exploitation every day.

Before I left, the women in Tweissha shared more stories about their ordeal. Clutching a small child to her, one woman lifted her shirt to show me her bruises. "The world needs to know what is happening to us," she told me. "For Libyans, we are not even human. I didn't do anything wrong. I just came here to work. Now I'm locked up for months and I don't know what will happen to me. There is nobody here to help me."

ACT NOW

Please send a fax to the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, calling on it to sign a memorandum of understanding with UNHCR, the UN refugee agency. Also urge the authorities to ratify the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, and to adopt asylum legislation that is consistent with international law and standards. Fax them on: +218213407469

Read more at bit.ly/libya-foreign-nationals

NO ROOF, NO ROOTS

Three years after Haiti's devastating earthquake, thousands of people are now facing forced eviction from their basic tents.

Virgiela was trapped under rubble for six days after the catastrophic earthquake that hit Haiti on 12 January 2010. Her house in the capital, Port-au-Prince, was destroyed. Her determination to be reunited with her children and grandchildren kept her going.

Then her tent in a camp for displaced people, in Place Jérémie, was torn down during a forced eviction in December 2011, which left 134 families on the street. What little they owned was either destroyed or stolen. Virgiela and her family were once again homeless.

With nowhere else to go, Virgiela now sleeps on the veranda of her sister's house. Her children and grandchildren live separately in the already overcrowded houses of family and friends.

Haiti's earthquake left 200,000 people dead and 2.3 million homeless. Today, nearly 350,000 people are still living in shelters made of frayed

tarpaulins or tin sheets. These makeshift camps offer very little access to essential services such as running water, toilets and rubbish disposal. Meanwhile, Haiti has received less than half of the US\$6.5 billion that donors pledged to help the country recover.

At the end of September 2012, nearly 80,000 people were under threat of eviction. So far around 60,000 people have been forcibly evicted from these camps. Most were living in tents on private land with disputed ownership. Already uprooted by the earthquake and struggling to survive in often appalling conditions, these families are living in constant fear of losing everything again.

Amnesty International has documented a pattern of forced evictions of internally displaced families, carried out or condoned by the Haitian authorities. The overwhelming majority of such evictions have involved alleged private landowners reclaiming properties from displaced people through intimidation and violence.

There is no genuine consultation, and displaced people are not offered

adequate alternative accommodation or compensation. As such, these evictions are in clear breach of international legal and procedural standards.

Our report, *"Nowhere to go": Forced evictions in Haiti's displacement camps*, shows how Haiti's post-quake reconstruction is failing to protect and fulfil people's right to adequate housing.

The Haitian authorities must act urgently to make sure that other families do not suffer the same fate as Virgiela. Haiti's displaced people need lasting solutions now to meet their housing needs, including an end to forced evictions. The international community should also fulfil their financial commitments made at the March 2010 donor conference to assist Haiti's recovery.

ACT NOW

Sign and send the postcard in our middle insert, calling on President Michel Martelly to stop all evictions until proper safeguards are in place to protect people's human rights. You can soon read our new report and watch our video at bit.ly/haiti-forced-evictions

Main: Children held by armed militia at Bou Rashada detention centre, Libya, May 2012. More than 1,000 men, women and children were detained there for being "undocumented migrants".

Above: A woman showing the scars she received during beatings at Tweisha detention centre in September 2012, Libya.

Displaced people protest against their threatened forced eviction from Grace Village camp, Carrefour municipality, Port-au-Prince.

GOOD NEWS & UPDATES

GLOBAL ARMS TRADE TREATY A STEP CLOSER

In November, in the biggest show of support for a regulated global arms trade so far, 157 governments at the UN General Assembly's First Committee on Disarmament in New York voted in favour of finalising the Arms Trade Treaty in March 2013.

Five of the "big six" arms-exporting countries, China, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the USA supported the resolution, with only Russia abstaining.

Even before the vote, 105 states put their names to the resolution, which was co-authored by the governments of Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom, and co-sponsored by 98 others. No government voted against the resolution.

This is the final leg of a 17-year campaign by Amnesty International and its partners to achieve an arms trade treaty that helps to protect people from human rights violations during armed repression, violence and conflicts around the globe.

NEPALESE MAN ACQUITTED OF MURDER BY JAPANESE COURT

Nepalese migrant worker Govinda Prasad Mainali, who spent 15 years in prison in Japan for a murder he did not commit, was acquitted at the Tokyo High Court on 7 November 2012.

Early in the case, Amnesty International raised concerns that Govinda Mainali had been denied the right to a fair trial. He was also denied access to lawyers following his arrest, and beaten by police during interrogations. During the trial, prosecutors withheld vital DNA evidence that would have aided his defence.

Both Amnesty International and the UN have repeatedly called on Japan to repeal or substantially reform its *daiyo kangoku* – substitute prison – system, in which a suspect may be held for up to 23 days without charge and be granted only limited access to lawyers.

Govinda Mainali has now been reunited with his family in Nepal.

MYANMAR PRISONER AMNESTIES CONTINUE

Prisoners of conscience U Myint Aye and Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min were among 50 political prisoners released in further prisoner amnesties by the Myanmar authorities in November.

U Myint Aye, co-founder of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network, had been serving a life sentence since 2008 as a result of his peaceful political activities. Lawyer and human rights defender Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min had his license to practice law revoked for alleged contempt of court in 2008. He was subsequently sentenced to six months' imprisonment in August 2012. The Myanmar government also announced that it would hold inter-governmental consultations to reconsider charges and punishment of prisoners still in jail.

"While this is a positive development, we urge the Myanmar authorities to release all prisoners of conscience still behind bars immediately and without conditions," said Isabelle Arradon, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Deputy Director.

Read our open letter to the Myanmar authorities calling for a review mechanism of prisoners at bit.ly/myanmar-letter



© Gry Monica Hellevik/Amnesty International

30,000 SIGNATURES

Thousands of activists couldn't stop the latest forced eviction of Roma people in Italy. But we are keeping up the pressure to stop it happening again.

In the early morning of 28 September 2012, following months of protests, police and bulldozers finally shut the gates to Tor de' Cenci – a Roma camp on the outskirts of Rome, Italy, featured in WIRE September/October.

Francesco Sejdic, 23, witnessed the demolition of the container where he had lived almost all his life. "I've been a child in Tor de' Cenci. I got married there. And then in five minutes they destroyed everything. Now, if I see pictures of the camp, I start crying," he told us.

He was one of around 250 people – all of Bosnian origin but resident in Italy since the early 1990s – transferred that



People taking calls into the night during Amnesty International Norway's telethon fundraiser, 21 October 2012. The generosity of millions of Norwegians means the organization is set to receive more than US\$30 million to fund its work to strengthen human rights around the world. More than 100,000 volunteers with collection boxes knocked on the doors of 2 million homes, while the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK), the national broadcaster, dedicated eight-and-a-half hours of TV to the effort. "This is a fantastic result," said Salil Shetty, Amnesty International's Secretary General. "All of us feel both proud and humbled by this wonderful generosity and support."

FOR ITALY'S ROMA PEOPLE

day to two other camps established by the authorities. One, La Barbuta, is surrounded by fences and CCTV and lies right next to a Rome airport runway.

The other, Castel Romano, is even more remote, not even served by a bus.

The eviction reminded us of how big the challenge ahead is. But simply by taking action, people worldwide demonstrated how solidarity empowers people like Francesco to keep fighting for their rights. We started in September with the launch of our briefing "*On the edge: Roma, forced evictions and segregation in Italy*", followed by a Global Day of Action on Italy.

As a result, Italy's government might need to get ready to spend some time working to end the policies of forced evictions and segregation targeting Roma. More than 30,000 activists from all over the world signed our petitions and postcards asking the prime minister to spend just one minute on dealing with this issue. Thirty thousand minutes make 500 hours, or about three weeks.

As WIRE went to print, plans were underway to deliver these petitions and postcards to the government in Rome on 22 December. Former Tor de' Cenci residents will be there, along with members of other Roma communities who are currently at risk of forced eviction.

Pressure is now mounting on the prime minister. Amnesty International recently submitted a briefing to Rome's civil court, which will soon decide on whether placing people in the La Barbuta camp, and the conditions there, represent discrimination.

We are also asking the EU Commission to open an infringement procedure against Italy based on its discriminatory treatment of Roma people. We think Italy has breached the EU Race Equality Directive, and are asking the EU to put pressure on Italy to give Roma people access to adequate housing without discrimination.

If the government doesn't react to our wake-up calls, it will be up to the EU Commission to protect the rights of Italy's Roma people. As Francesco's father, Ferid, put it: "I will go ahead and look for a solution, for justice, for human rights and for a place where we can live." Activists worldwide will continue to walk that road with him.

How far apart are Rome and Nairobi? Watch this video from when Ferid met Jeremiah, two men facing forced eviction on separate continents. Visit bit.ly/roma-italy Download our Euroshame housing brochure at bit.ly/euroshame

**‘WE NEED
TO CARRY ON
FIGHTING FOR
JUSTICE’**

ANGKHANA NEELAPHAJIT, ON HER
WORK TO END DISAPPEARANCES
IN THAILAND. PAGE 16-17

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



BRAZIL

ENVIRONMENTAL CAMPAIGNER AT RISK

© Amnesty International



Alexandre Anderson de Souza and his wife Daize Menezes de Souza have been repeatedly threatened for their environmental campaigning. Alexandre says that over the past three years he has survived six attempts to kill him.

Alexandre is president of the Association of Men and Women of the Sea (Associação Homens e Mulheres do Mar, AHOMAR), which is based on Mauá beach, Magé municipality, where fishermen repair their nets and prepare small vessels for fishing expeditions into the bay. AHOMAR has long denounced development in the bay, which it claims is causing serious, long-term environmental damage and threatening its members' livelihoods. Alexandre has led a 5-year protest against the construction of platforms and pipelines in the bay, forming part of a vast petrochemical refinery.

Four members of AHOMAR have been killed since 2009. Treasurer Paulo César dos Santos Souza, was beaten and shot in the head in front of his wife and children in 2009. In 2010, Márcio Amaro was also shot dead in his house. In late June 2012, the bodies of two fishermen and active members of AHOMAR, Almir Nogueira de Amorim and João Luiz Telles Penetra, were found in Guanabara Bay. They had been tied up before being drowned. Investigations into the deaths have not led to prosecutions. The threats against Alexandre and Daize have not been adequately investigated: though included on the National Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, they have not received adequate protection.

Please write, calling for Alexandre Anderson de Souza and his wife Daize Menezes de Souza to be given full protection, in accordance with their wishes. Urge that all threats and violence against AHOMAR members, including the four deaths, be fully investigated and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

Send appeals to:

Sra. Maria do Rosário Nunes
Setor Comercial Sul,
Edifício Parque da Cidade Corporate,
Quadra 9, Lote C, Torre A, 10º andar,
70.308-200 - Brasília/DF
Fax: +55 61 2025-9414
Salutation: Exma. Sra. Ministra

PHILIPPINES

DARIUS EVANGELISTA

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

“GET RID OF HIM”

© Private



Margie Evangelista last saw her husband, Darius Evangelista, before he was arrested for theft on 5 March 2010. She had no news of him until 17 August 2010, when somebody told her they had seen him on the news. The video showed a naked man, writhing in pain while a police officer beat him and repeatedly pulled a string tied to his genitals. Uniformed policemen looked on.

Margie saw the video and instantly recognized her husband and father of their three young children. Days later, she learned that a human head had been found by trash scavengers. She identified it as being similar in appearance to her husband.

Upon investigation by the Commission on Human Rights, Darius' three fellow detainees said that following his arrest, Darius was taken to the police chief's office and brought back to the cell

badly injured. He was then taken out of the police station, and one detainee heard a policeman say “get rid of him.” They never saw Darius again.

Please write, calling for a prompt and thorough investigation into the torture, disappearance and possible extrajudicial killing of Darius Evangelista. Suggested message: “I am a member of Amnesty International. I am concerned that some of those whose arrest has been ordered for the torture of Darius Evangelista are still at large. Although a Manila Court has ordered the arrest of seven policemen, at least four are yet to be apprehended. What are the police doing to ensure that all those who may have been involved in this crime are arrested soon?”

Send appeals to:

PDG Alan Purisima
PNP National Headquarters Camp General
Crame
Quezon City, Philippines 1100
Salutation: Dear Police Director General

You can also send a message via the police enquiry form: bit.ly/pnp-supportdesk
For “Inquiry Topic”, choose “Person with warrant of arrest”, for “Specific subject” write “Torture of Darius Evangelista”. Or send a message to the Police Director General via Facebook: bit.ly/darius-evangelista

SLOVAKIA

ROMANI FAMILIES IN LEVOČA

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

ROMANI SCHOOLCHILDREN SEGREGATED

© Amnesty International



At the start of the new school year in September 2011, 26 of the 29 Romani children joining the first grade of the Francisciho Street primary school, in the town of Levoča, were segregated into two Roma-only classes. The three remaining Romani children were placed in mixed classes with non-Roma children.

The parents of the segregated Romani children immediately complained about the separation of their children from their non-Roma peers. The school management told them they should be happy that their children were in separated classes that created a “suitable educational environment” for their children. The school management threatened to call the police if the parents continued to complain. The school claimed that the children had received a psychological assessment and needed

extra support. However, the children's parents were not informed of the assessment, and the two Roma-only classes were not allocated any extra support or care for the children.

It appears that the Roma-only classes were set up following a petition from non-Roma parents to restrict the number of children from “anti-social” communities being taught alongside their children. One Romani mother commented: “The school is destroying their dreams. We may be uneducated, but we want our children to be educated.”

In September 2012, at the start of the new school year, some of the Romani children who had been previously placed in Roma-only classes were transferred back to mixed classes. However, the school continues to run segregated classes where only Romani children are placed.

Please write, calling for an end to the segregation of Romani children in Francisciho Street primary school, Levoča, and across all schools in Slovakia. Send appeals to:

Dušan Caplovic
Minister of Education
Ministry of Education, Science, Research
and Sport, Stromová 1
813 30 Bratislava, Slovakia
Fax: +421 259374333
Email: minister@minedu.sk
Salutation: Dear Minister

TUNISIA

MANAL BOUALAGI

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

YOUNG MOTHER
KILLED



© Amnesty International

Manal Boualagi, a 26-year-old mother of two, was shot dead in Regueb, a small town in the province of Sidi Bouzid, central Tunisia, on 9 January 2011. She was walking home from her mother's house with her children and a female relative when she screamed and fell to the ground. The doctor who examined her body told Amnesty International that the bullet wounds in Manal's chest suggested that the shots were fired by a sniper from a nearby building.

Five people were killed that day in Regueb, after police used lethal force against protesters. Manal Boualagi's family have accused two security officers of giving orders to shoot on protesters in Regueb on 9 January, leading to

Manal's death. One officer was questioned by a military investigating judge and then detained. The other has refused to appear before the court and remains free. Two years on, Manal's family are still waiting for justice.

Please write, calling for Manal Boualagi's family to be provided with truth, justice and reparation, including full details of investigations into her death. Those responsible for her death should be given a fair trial without resorting to the death penalty. Send appeals to:

Samir Dilou
Minister of Human Rights and
Transitional Justice
Ministry of Human Rights and Transitional
Justice
Rue du 2 Mars 1934 Le Bardo 2000
Tunis
Tunisia

Fax: +216 71 662 255
Salutation: Dear Minister

ETHIOPIA

ESKINDER NEGA

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

JOURNALIST
IMPRISONED FOR
TREASON AND
TERRORISM



© Private

Journalist Eskinder Nega was sentenced to 18 years in prison for high treason and terrorism related offences on 13 July 2012. He was arrested in September 2011 after writing articles and making speeches criticizing the government and calling for freedom of expression in Ethiopia.

This is the eighth time Eskinder Nega has been arrested and prosecuted for his work as a journalist. In 2005, he was arrested with his wife Serkalem Fasil. The couple were among 131 journalists, activists and opposition politicians charged with treason and other offences. While in prison in 2006, Serkalem gave birth to a son, Nafkot.

Shortly before his most recent arrest in September 2011, Eskinder Nega spoke at an opposition party event about press freedom and whether uprisings in the Middle East and North

Africa might spread to Ethiopia. A few days before, he had also criticized the use of anti-terrorism legislation to silence government critics. This same legislation was subsequently used to prosecute Eskinder. Twenty-three other people were prosecuted alongside Eskinder on the same and related charges, and all but two were later found guilty. The trial was marred by serious irregularities, including allegations of torture from at least one defendant, which were not investigated. Early in the trial, the Prime Minister declared the defendants guilty on state television, putting pressure on the court to find them guilty. Amnesty International believes Eskinder Nega was convicted solely for his peaceful and legitimate activities as a journalist.

Please write to the Ethiopian authorities, stating that Amnesty International considers Eskinder Nega to be a prisoner of conscience. Call for his immediate and unconditional release. Urge the government to stop using criminal proceedings to silence its critics, and to end other forms of harassment of journalists, opposition members and civil society activists. Laws unduly restricting freedom of expression and association must be amended. Send appeals to:

Hailemariam Desalegn
Prime Minister
P.O. Box 1031
Addis Ababa
Ethiopia
Fax: +251 11 155 20 20
Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

TURKEY

AHMET YILDIZ

WORLDWIDE APPEAL

SUSPECTED
"HONOUR"
KILLING



© Private

On 15 July 2008, Ahmet Yıldız left his apartment to buy ice cream. Moments later, his partner, Ibrahim Can, heard gunshots. When he went downstairs, he saw that Ahmet had been shot. Ahmet's shooting is widely regarded as an "honour" killing. As in other suspected "honour" killings, Ahmet's family failed to collect his body for burial. An arrest warrant was finally issued for the only suspect, Ahmet's father, three months after the shooting. He has yet to be apprehended by the police.

The case demonstrates the Turkish authorities' failure to respond to violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people. Ibrahim Can told Amnesty International that in the months leading up to Ahmet's murder, Ahmet had received threats of

violence from his family, including his father. In October 2007, Ahmet made a criminal complaint against his family and asked for protection from the State Prosecutor's office in Üsküdar, Istanbul. Rather than take action, the Prosecutor passed the complaint to a neighbouring district. No protection was provided. After Ahmet's murder, it emerged that this complaint was not investigated.

No official statistics are collected regarding crimes against LGBTI people in Turkey. However, LGBTI rights groups record that between January and July 2012 alone, there were at least four murders of transgender women and one murder of a gay man. Turkish law provides no explicit protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, despite campaigning by rights groups.

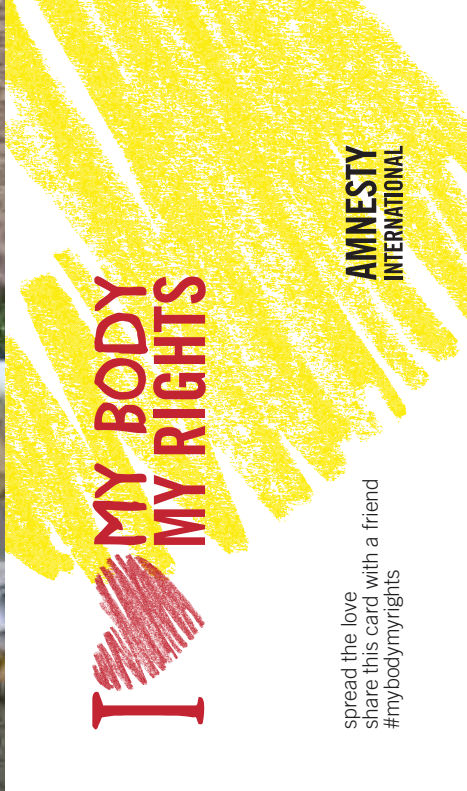
Please write, outlining Ahmet Yıldız's case. Call for the sole suspect in his murder to be brought to justice in a fair trial. Call for an investigation into the failure to protect Ahmet Yıldız or to bring the sole murder suspect to trial after more than four years. Urge the authorities to take immediate steps to prevent and combat homophobic and transphobic hate crimes. Send appeals to:

Minister of Justice
Mr Sadullah Ergin
Ministry of Justice
Adalet Bakanlığı
06659 Ankara
Turkey
Fax: +90 3124177113
Email: sadullahergin@adalet.gov.tr
Salutation: Dear Minister



**GIVE TRIBAL AREAS IN PAKISTAN
HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS**

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INTERNATIONAL



**I MY BODY
MY RIGHTS**

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INTERNATIONAL

spread the love
share this card with a friend
#mybodymyrights



**STOP FORCED EVICTIONS
IN HAITI NOW!**

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EGYPT: NEVER AGAIN

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INTERNATIONAL



IT'S YOUR BODY,
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO...

- ... MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT YOUR OWN HEALTH
- ... ASK FOR AND GET INFO ABOUT HEALTH SERVICES
- ... DECIDE IF AND WHEN TO HAVE KIDS
- ... CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT TO MARRY
- ... ACCESS SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE
- ... LIVE FREE FROM SEXUAL VIOLENCE

FIND OUT MORE:

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Dear President Zardari,

The people of Pakistan's Tribal Areas continue to endure legal exclusions that prevent their rights from being enforced. The government has entrenched these exclusions through security laws which you approved in June 2011. The Actions (in Aid of Civil Power) Regulations 2011 (AACPR), covering the Tribal Areas, allow Pakistan's security forces to violate with impunity several human rights, including the rights to life, to a fair trial and protection against arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment.

We urge you to address the absence of human rights protections in northwest Pakistan by formally extending the jurisdiction of the high courts and parliament to the Tribal Areas, repealing the AACPR, and undertaking a credible, independent investigation into violations in detention, including deaths in custody, torture and other ill-treatment.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

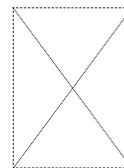
Address: _____

President Zardari
President's Secretariat
Islamabad
Pakistan

Image: A soldier stands guard over hooded men alleged to be militants detained during military operations in Pakistan's Tribal Areas, December 2010 © REUTERS/K. Parvez

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org

Index: ASA 33/10/18/2012



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Dear President,

I am profoundly concerned that people in Haiti's internal displacement camps are being forcibly evicted, often by the authorities or with their consent. Thousands of families who are desperately seeking to rebuild their lives are living in daily fear of being forcibly evicted without any due process.

I therefore respectfully urge your government to immediately stop all evictions, until proper safeguards are established to comply with international human rights standards.

Even though I recognize that the international community must make good on its pledges at the March 2010 donor conference to assist Haiti's reconstruction process, I do believe that you have the primary responsibility to ensure that displaced people's rights are respected and protected and to provide lasting solutions to their housing needs.

Yours respectfully,

Name: _____

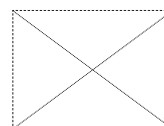
Country: _____

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President
Son Excellence Monsieur Michel Martelly
Palais National
Rue Magny
Port-au-Prince
Haiti

Image: IDP camp Grace Village, Carrefour municipally, Port-au-Prince, May 2012 © Amnesty International

Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Dear President Morsi,

In November 2011, the Central Security Forces killed 51 protesters in Cairo's Mohamed Mahmoud Street. Today, only one member of the security forces is on trial for the violence. The families of those killed are still waiting for justice.

Under the 17-month rule of Egypt's Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, the army and security forces killed over 120 protesters. Action is needed to ensure that this can never happen again.

I call on you to establish an oversight mechanism with the power to independently, effectively and impartially investigate all allegations of human rights violations by the security forces. I also ask you to amend or repeal any legislation which would prevent such investigations, and to ensure that Egyptian laws on the use of force comply with international standards.

Yours sincerely,

Name: _____

Country: _____

Index: MDE 12/001/2013

His Excellency President Mohamed Morsi
Office of the President
Presidential Palace
Heliopolis
Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

Image: Two protesters are injured as riot police throw tear gas bombs during clashes near Tahrir Square, in Cairo, November 2011. © REUTERS/Asmaa Waguih
Amnesty International, International Secretariat, Peter Benenson House, 1 Easton Street, London WC1X 0DW, UK. amnesty.org

